

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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**Applicants:** Valenzuela, et al.

**U.S. Serial No.:** Not yet known

**Examiner:** Not yet known

**Filing Date:** Filed herewith

**Group Art Unit:** Not known

**Title:** DORSAL TISSUE AFFECTING FACTOR AND  
COMPOSITION

July 2, 2001

Commissioner of Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Washington, DC 20231

SIR:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

This paper is submitted in connection with the above-identified application, which is a continuation of USSN 09/167,874, filed on October 7, 1998, now allowed, which is a continuation of USSN 08/485,721, filed on June 7, 1995, now issued as Patent No. 5,821,124, which is a continuation of USSN 08/392,935, filed on March 3, 1995, now issued as Patent No. 5,843,775, which is a continuation of PCT/US93/08326, filed September 2, 1993, now abandoned, which is a continuation-in-part of USSN 07/957,401, filed on October 6, 1992, now abandoned, which is a continuation-in-part of USSN 07/950,410, filed on September 23, 1992, now abandoned, which is a continuation-in-part of USSN 07/939,954, filed on September 3, 1992, now abandoned. Prior to examination of the application on the merits, Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendments to the claims and specification:

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